



Service History of
681954 AA TUCKMAN. M (Mike)
 7th May 1956 to 23rd November 1965

1956 - 1959	RAF Halton	Technical Training Command	Apprentice Training (Airframe Fitter)
1959 - 1961	RAF Valley	Flying Training Command No. 7 F.T.S.	1 st Line Servicing - Vampire TMk11 and Meteors
1961 - 1962	RAF Odiham	Transport Command	Belvedere HC Mk 1 – Crewman - Acceptance Trials and 1 st Line Servicing
1962 - 1964	RAF Seletar - Singapore	Far East Air Force No: 66 Squadron	Belvedere HC Mk 1 – Crewman - Tropical Trials, Search & Rescue, Casualty Evacuation and 1 st Line Servicing
1964 - 1965	RAF Binbrook	Fighter Command	1 st Line Servicing on Canberra B Mk2, PR Mk3, T Mk4, T Mk11 and T Mk19

RANK ON COMPLETION OF SERVICE

Corporal

AWARDS



General Service Medal (Brunei)



Post Halton Career and Tribute overleaf

POST HALTON CAREER

In May 1963, Mike was the crewman assigned to a 66 Squadron Belvedere engaged in the Brunei campaign. Feeling unwell, Mike's place was taken by another crew member from the squadron. The sortie ended with the Belvedere crashing and killing all on board.

Mike left the RAF two and a half years later but remained deeply affected by the tragedy and he and his wife, Elaine, commenced their annual pilgrimage to the memorial that had been erected in remembrance of all the crew members.

So, Mike had opted to purchase his discharge about halfway through his 12-year engagement and went on to build a very successful garage business in Cheadle Hulme, Manchester; which also included an aviation spares department.

A TRIBUTE TO MIKE

(By John Burt, assisted by Ivor John)

It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of Mike Tuckman at the age of 71 years. Mike and his wife Elaine, who passed away in March 2007, were staunch supporters of the 83rd reunions from the first one that was held in 1992.

The news initially came to us via Patrick O'Shea who was contacted by Simon, Mike's son.

The following is from Patrick's email:-

"Apparently, Mike had a cerebral embolism on June 10th 2010 shortly after a visit in the nearby town. He had just left town when his jeep veered off the road into the side. They found him unconscious with his beloved dog licking his face. As I understand it, shortly afterwards, he had a heart attack and passed away.

Mike's cremation has already taken place in Thailand and his ashes are being returned to the UK with Simon and will be laid to rest with Elaine".

Simon and Kim, Mike and Elaine's daughter, invited us all to attend Mike's funeral which was held on Friday, 2nd July 2010 at All Saints Church on Church Road in Cheadle Hulme, with the wake afterwards at The Galleon on Manchester Road in Didsbury. It was appropriate that Mike's funeral was held near to the garage that Mike and his family have successfully ran for many years.

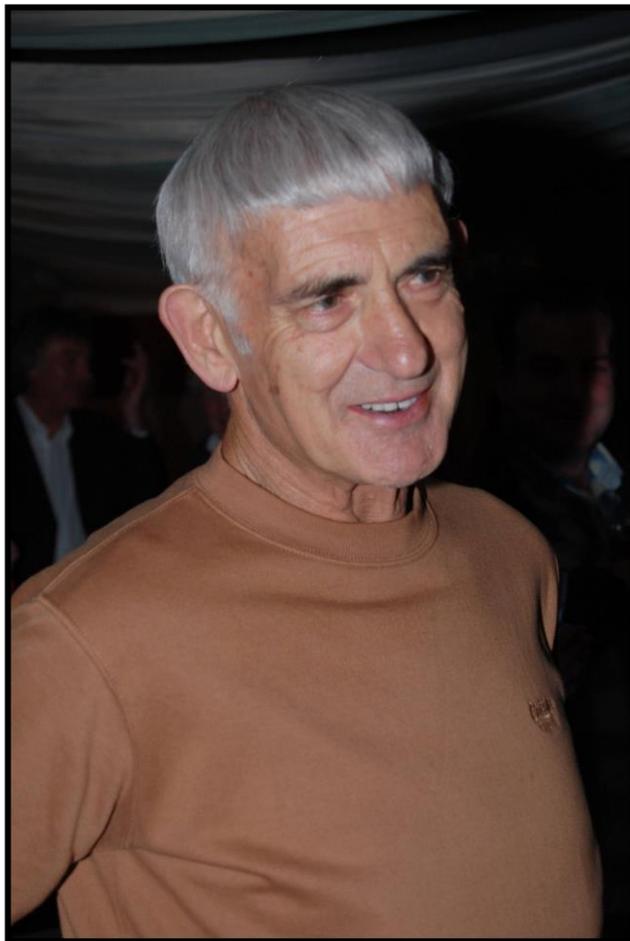
Mike Stone was able to go to the funeral and represent the Entry Family but sadly Ivor, Janet, Margaret and I were unable to attend. We had each wanted to say our goodbyes to a good mate and were so sorry to be absent at the funeral, but I can assure our thoughts were with Kim and Jason and the family on that day.

On a personal note, I consider myself privileged to have known Mike for so many years since we first met at RAF Halton back in 1956. The last time we worked together was in 2006/7 when we put on the Centenary of Rotorcraft Exhibition and Display at the 2007 RAFHAAA Triennial. Mike was a key player in the team and I will never forget his enthusiasm and drive to get involved and to make things happen. Mike contributed in every

way possible to make it a success and all so soon after he lost Elaine. He was truly a 'Big Man' and I will never forget that.

Another thing that sets Mike apart from other men happened when he was a crewman on Belvederes at Seletar in the 1960's. He and his mate, another crewman, arranged to swop trips for a particular mission and the helicopter crashed with total loss of life. This event was something that deeply concerned Mike for the rest of his life and after the accident, whenever possible, Mike made it part of his life on the anniversary of his mates death, to visit the memorial at the crash site in Borneo. This is the measure of a man who genuinely cared for others.

Most recently, in February last year (2009), we were invited by Mike's family to the 70th Birthday Party they organised for him at the Rugby Club in Cheadle. From the 83rd Entry Family, Ivor and Margaret John, Dave and Jean Smith and Janet and I were able to join with Mike's family and many friends to spring a real surprise on him on his return from Thailand.



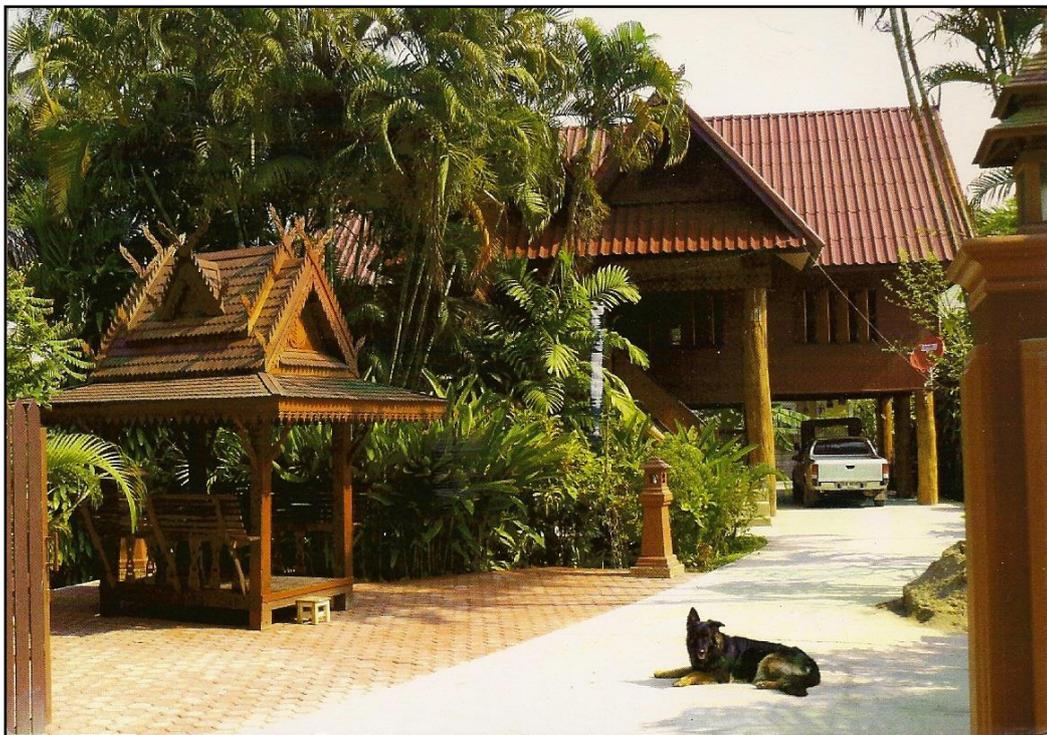
Mike celebrating his 70th Birthday Party at the Rugby Club in Cheadle on 28th February 2009

A great time was had by all and Mike really didn't have a clue about what was going on. He truly did get a big birthday surprise.



The picture below was taken in Thailand by Mike and shows his beloved dog at his home in Chiang Mai alongside the Sala and patio area he had built with the collection raised at his birthday party.

The caption on the card Mike sent to us is "Every time I sip my Mekhon Whiskey you will all be in my thoughts, Best Wishes, Mike x".



Mike and Elaine were a lovely couple and will be sadly missed, but never forgotten by the Entry Family.